

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

- B1*
Sub
C1
1. A filler device having a filler neck (23) and a closure cap (1), the closure cap (1) having an engagement segment (4), the engagement segment (4) and filler neck (23) having complementary engagement elements (7, 8, 25, 26), which can be brought, by movement of the closure cap (1) with respect to the filler neck (23), from an initial position into a final position, a locking device (13, 14) operably associated with and preventing the closure cap (1) from falling off which generates a resistance to movement in a movement region of the closure cap (1), the movement region comprising an axial path for the closure cap (1) to the initial position, and from the initial position a circumferential path to the final position, characterized in that the locking device (13, 14) is effective intermediate the initial position and the final position.

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9. The filler device as defined in Claim 1, characterized in that the locking device (13, 14) has a resiliently deflectable locking lug (15, 16) on one of the filler neck (23) and the closure cap (1), which is located in the movement region.

- B3*
Sub
C1
11. The filler device as defined in Claim 10, characterized in that the filler neck has an engagement projection (25, 26), and the closure cap has an engagement groove (7, 8) for engaging said engagement projection.

B3

12. The filler device as defined in Claim 11, characterized in that the engagement groove (7, 8) has an axial segment and a circumferential segment.

B4
sub
C1

13. The filler device as defined in Claim 11, characterized in that the locking lug (13, 14) is arranged at the transition from the axial path to the circumferential path, and has inclined ramps (19, 20, 21, 22) in the axial and the radial direction.

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B5

15. (New) A filler device, comprising:
a filler neck having an engagement projection;
a closure cap having an engagement groove for receiving said engagement projection, said engagement groove having an axial path and a circumferential path, and said closure cap having a locking strut, said locking strut having an axial ramp for generating resistance when said engagement projection is inserted into said axial path, and said locking strut having a circumferential ramp for generating resistance when said engagement projection is rotated circumferentially in said circumferential path.
16. (New) The filler device of claim 15, wherein said filler neck and said closure cap have more than one engagement projection and engagement groove, respectively.
17. (New) The filler device of claim 15, wherein said closure cap further comprises an annular groove having an O-ring, said annular groove adjacent said engagement groove.

18. (New) The filler device of claim 15, wherein said locking strut is radially inwardly deformable.

19. (New) The filler device of claim 15, wherein said locking strut further comprises a stop ridge at an end opposite said axial and circumferential ramps, said stop ridge defining an end point of said axial path for axially inserting said closure cap.
